



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject: Sign Bylaw Amendments – Placement and Size of Political Signs

File #: 3900.00

Doc #:

From: Kelly Kenney
Corporate Officer

Date: May 17, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report of Corporate Officer dated May 17, 2022 regarding Sign Bylaw amendments with respect to placement and size of political signs be received for information.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to provide information with respect to proposed amendments to the City's Sign Bylaw to limit the placement of political signs to private property and reduce the permitted size of political signs.

POLICY:

Excerpts from the *Community Charter*:

“Fundamental powers

8(4) A council may, by bylaw, regulate and impose requirements in relation to matters referred to in section 65 [signs and other advertising].

Signs and other advertising

65. The authority of a council under section 8 (4) [spheres of authority — signs and other advertising] may be exercised in relation to the erection, placing, alteration,

maintenance, demolition and removal of signs, sign boards, advertisements, advertising devices and structures.”

The City’s Sign Bylaw No. 2125 regulates the placement of signs on all private property and on highway right-of-ways within the boundaries of the City of Langley.

The political sign regulations in the Sign Bylaw apply to municipal, school board, provincial, and federal candidates.

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

At the May 9, 2022 Regular Council meeting, Council considered proposed amendments to the City’s Sign Bylaw No. 2125 in relation to changing the location of one of the two public property locations where political signs are permitted.

Council noted issues with political signs with respect to:

- cost;
- tendency for political signs to be defaced and/or damaged in the two permitted public property locations;
- negative environmental impact of plastic political signs;

Council subsequently passed the following motion:

“THAT staff report back to Council with amendments to the Sign Bylaw to allow the placement of political signs on private property only.”

Accordingly, staff are bringing forward proposed amendments to the City’s Sign Bylaw to remove reference to placement of political signs on public property. In addition, given the environmental impacts of plastic political signs, amendments are also being proposed to reduce the maximum permitted size of political signs.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Staff time to investigate, upon complaint, contravention of the political sign provisions of the Sign Bylaw.

Bylaw Enforcement staff may issue tickets under the City’s Municipal Ticket Information System Bylaw for non-compliance with the political sign provisions of the Sign Bylaw.

ALTERNATIVES:

Council may provide alternate or additional amendments to the Sign Bylaw.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Kenney
Corporate Officer

Attachments

1. Sign Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 3222

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

I support the recommendation.



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer